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THE
CASE
OF THE
Russia Company
RUSSIA MERCHANTS.

THE *Russia* Merchants traded to *Persia* through *Russia*, about 200 Years ago, (even before there was a *Turkey* Company, or any Trade to *Turkey*) by the way of *Archangel*, up the River *Dwina* to *Vologda*, and thence by Land to *Teraflaw* on the River *Volga*, and so down that River to *Astrachan*, thence over the *Caspian* Lake into *Persia*; though, by reason of Wars between the *Turks* and *Persians*, and Robberies committed by the Barbarians, the *Russia* Merchants were at last discouraged from pursuing this glorious Enterprize.

ABOUT 1740, the *Russia* Merchants turned their Thoughts to reviving this Trade to *Persia*; but being doubtful whether, by the Act of Navigation, they could import Raw Silk from *Persia* through *Russia*, as they had done formerly before that Act, they did, in 1741, apply to the Honorable House of Commons for Relief; and, accordingly, an Act passed, in the 11th of his present Majesty's Reign, to enable the *Russia* Merchants to trade to and from *Persia* through *Russia*, as they had formerly done.

IN pursuance of the said Act, the *Russia* Merchants did export considerable Quantities of Woollen Goods, and other Manufactures of these Kingdoms through *Russia* to *Persia*, and sold them in *Persia*, and, in return

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imported from thence *Persia Sherbaffe* Raw Silk, of a very good Quality, and much esteemed by the Silk Manufacturers in these Kingdoms.

FOR about six Years the *Russia* Merchants continued exporting Woollen Goods, and other Manufactures of these Kingdoms, until they were stopt by a Decree in 1747, interdicting their carrying any more Goods thro' *Russia*, and were also denied the Liberty of Navigating with the *British* Flag on the *Caspian*, whereby the Ships they had built (being rendered useless) they were obliged to be resold to Loss.

AFTER this, about the Beginning of 1748, a heavier Misfortune befel the *British* Traders to *Persia*, (during the Civil Wars in that Country) by a general Plunder of their Effects (at *Rischd* in *Persia*) to the Amount of about 100,000 *l*.

SINCE the *Russia* Merchants have been denied Permission in *Russia*, to transport through that Country to *Persia*, the *British* Woollen Goods and Manufactures they had, for that Purpose, sent to *Russia*, they have sold said Goods to *Russian* Subjects, Traders to *Persia*.

THE *Russia* Merchants have also exported and sold to *Russian* Subjects (Traders to *Persia*) more *British* Woollen Goods and Manufactures of the Sortments fit for the *Persian* Market, being of a Fabrick unfit for the Consumption of *Russia*, and have Hopes of increasing the Sale thereof in *Russia*, provided Encouragement is given for the taking Silk in return.

THE *Russian* Subjects drive a considerable Trade to *Persia* for Raw Silk, which they carry to *Holland*, and therewith purchase Woollen Goods; but if we will take off their Silk, we may hope to induce them, in return, to take our Woollen Manufactures, proper for the *Persian* Market.

THE short Question, therefore, is, Who shall get the *Persia Sherbaffe* Raw Silk in exchange for Woollen Goods?

The *DUTCH* or *ENGLISH*?

THE *Turkey* Company are out of the Question; for as the Carriage to and from *Persia* through *Russia* has been long established by the *Russians*, and is easier and cheaper than by the way of *Turkey*, it readily accounts for the Alteration of the Channel of Trade from *Persia*.

HENCEFORWARD, therefore, we can expect very small Supplies from the *Turkey* Company of *Persia Sherbaffe*; and unless we take it from *Russia*, (where it is to be had) we shall deprive our Manufacturers of a sort of Silk very useful to them, and throw it all into the Hands of our Rival Neighbours.

SINCE the Opening of the Trade through *Russia* to *Persia*, it will not appear (making reasonable Allowances for the Obstructions to Trade incident to a *French* War) that the Exports or Imports of the *Turkey* Company have been affected or diminished.

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THEREFORE, whatever *British* Woollen Goods, or Manufactures, have been exported by the *Russia* Merchants to the Northern Parts of *Persia*, since the Opening of that Trade, hath been a manifest Advantage to the Nation, and an Increase of its Exports.

IF the Bill for purchasing *Persia Sherbaffe* Raw Silk should not pass into a Law, we may thereby be deprived of the necessary Supply of that Sort of Silk, and be prevented supplying the Northern Parts of *Persia* with *British* Woollen Goods and Manufactures; it being unlikely the *Turky* Company can do either. By these means, therefore, the Nation will be a Sufferer in both Kinds, and the *Dutch* will reap those Advantages which we refuse.

ON the former Application of the *Russia* Merchants for opening the Trade to *Persia*, the Opposition of the *Turky* Merchants is recent in every one's Memory. How groundless that was, may appear from hence, that none of those bad Consequences, which were insinuated, have ever arisen; nor has the *Ottoman Porte* ever, to this Day, taken the least Umbrage thereat.

THE

CASE

OF THE

Russia Merchants.